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this is the first breeding record for this species in New Mexico with the exception of the one noted by Mr. Ligon below.

The Red-headed Woodpecker has been observed in New Mexico apparently with increasing frequency since 1915. I find in my records the following notes on the occurrence of this species:

1 adult bird, Albuquerque, June 7 and 8, 1915.

1 adult, Roswell, Feb. 12, 1916.

1 adult, 4 miles north of Albuquerque, Aug. 18, 1918.

1 adult, in same locality as the nest above described, May 25, 1919.

Mr. J. S. Ligon, of the U. S. Biological Survey, supplies the following notes from his records:

July, 1915, nesting at Ft. Sumner, New Mexico.

Sept. 9, 1916, 1 adult, South Spring River, Roswell, New Mexico.

Sept. 4, 1917, 1 adult, Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Aug. 28, 5 adults observed between LaJoya and Isleta, on the Rio Grande, New Mexico.

May 27, 1919, 1 adult, at White Tail, Sacramento Mts., New Mexico.

In a previous issue of THE CONDOR, I have advanced the theory that the Red-headed Woodpecker is invading New Mexico by way of the telephone poles along the transcontinental railway lines. In support of this theory it is interesting to note that all the observations listed above were on or near railway lines.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 17, 1919.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The *Second Ten Year Index to The Condor* will probably be off the press by the time this issue of THE CONDOR reaches our readers. No pains have been spared by its compiler, Mr. J. R. Pemberton, to make this index serviceable in every feasible way. The user will not only be able to find his way to the extensive literature contained in volumes xi to xx by *species* (under all the different names employed for each), but will also be guided on the basis of subject matter, geography, and authors. Needless to say every CONDOR subscriber and Cooper Club member should possess himself at once of a copy of this Index (Avifauna No. 13). Applications should be made to the Club business manager, W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Eagle Rock, California.*

About the most thoroughly satisfying book we have yet seen on the birds of any one country is the work now appearing from the press of Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London, entitled "A Practical Handbook of British Birds." No less than six experienced students of British birds are collaborating in the production of the work, each attending to some special portion of the matter relating to each species. Dr. Ernst Hartert is handling the nomenclature and keys; Mr. H. F. Witherby furnishes part of the descriptions and diagnoses, and Miss Annie C. Jackson, part; the field characters are drawn up for the most part by Mr. C. Oldham; Mr. Norman F. Ticehurst

traces the migrations of the birds; and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain deals with their food and breeding habits. Here is a demonstration of the higher plane of output which is bound to be reached through organized co-operative effort. The three parts of the work which have so far appeared, comprising over two hundred pages and several excellent plates, respond to our scrutiny as well-nigh ideal, as regards both method of treatment and content. Of course our British friends have many more years of ornithological history to draw from, as well as the records of many more observers, than we of western North America have. Any approach to the completeness shown by their work would as yet be impossible here. Many, many years of conscientious gathering and recording of facts yet remain to be done before west-Americans can hope to put through so complete a "practical handbook" of our birds.

Dr. Witmer Stone, Curator of the Philadelphia Academy and Editor of *The Auk*, has spent the early summer in the Chiricahua Mountains, southeastern Arizona. Botany as well as Ornithology received his attention, though we have an idea the main object of the trip was a thorough rest; for Dr. Stone is a prodigious worker and has but rarely allowed himself a vacation. Mrs. Stone "came along too"; and Mr. and Mrs. J. Eugene Law are of the party. Mr. Alex-

ander Wetmore is reported to have dropped into camp for the first week of June. That is an unusual concentration of keen ornithologists, so let us watch now for new records from Arizona!

Mr. and Mrs. A. Brazier Howell and daughter are touring northern California and Oregon this summer, visiting the type localities of certain desirable birds and mammals. An ingeniously and compactly equipped "Buick" contributes wonderfully to bringing the desired results.

Halsted G. White and Richard M. Hunt are spending the summer in field work in the Santa Lucia Mountains of southern Monterey County, California—this in the interests of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Mr. Laurence Huey is doing field work with the birds of the northern Sierra Nevada in the interests of Mr. Donald R. Dickey of Pasadena. Photographs of nesting birds constitute an important portion of the output.

Mr. F. C. Lincoln, Curator of the department of ornithology of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, is now mustered out of the army, in which he served in the pigeon section of the Signal Corps. He has lately given a number of lectures in Denver on "The Military Use of the Homing Pigeon" and has in preparation an article on the same subject, to appear in due time in some natural history journal.

Addition to Military Service Record: PARMENTER, Henry E., Commander, U. S. Navy, Retired, Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, California. Assistant Commandant of District since May, 1917.

Leo Wiley, a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club since 1915, died at Shandon, California, October 31, 1918, a victim of the influenza epidemic. He was born at Silverton, Colorado, September 20, 1890, and was the only son of A. P. Wiley, who now resides at Palo Verde, Imperial County, California. It was at this place, in 1910, that Leo Wiley got in touch with some visiting ornithologists, and thereafter his interest in birds led to a number of brief but valuable contributions to the columns of *THE CONDOR*. Many specimens taken by him have come into the possession of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; and now, through gift from his father, the balance of his collection of birds has gone to the same institution.

As bearing further upon the problem of ducks versus rice in the Sacramento Valley, California (see page 89 of our March issue), it is proper to state that the United States

Department of Agriculture will now, upon application, issue a blanket permit allowing growers, members of their immediate families, and bona fide employees to "herd" ducks from the rice fields between September 15 and October 15 and to utilize for food any birds killed in the process. Such birds may also be shipped to charitable institutions if properly marked. After the season opened last fall permits were granted to rice growers to herd at night so as to allow protection of the harvested rice during moonlight nights. As might have been expected, the demand for an earlier opening of the season and promiscuous hunting came from hunters in the towns, and not from the rice growers themselves, who in reality oppose open shooting. Retrieving ducks in growing rice would cause greater damage than the ducks cause. It is obvious that here, as with so many other economic problems arising in the course of adjustment of natural conditions to human settlement, the first need is for the careful ascertainment of the facts. There often prove to be no valid grounds for conflict of interests; when there are real grounds, then some fair solution is likely to present itself to the persons who study the situation disinterestedly. The coming harvest season should find all interests well cared for, thanks to the attention given the matter by our Government through the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California has again undertaken field work in Alaska, and a party to work in that region left the Museum on May 14, to be gone until October 1. The route for the present season lies in southeastern Alaska in the vicinity of Wrangell. It follows up the Stikine River from the sea eastwardly into the interior to the vicinity of Telegraph Creek, British Columbia. The purpose of the work is to gather specimens and all sorts of natural history information concerning the birds and mammals of the section traversed, particularly in order to learn how the fauna of the relatively arid interior differs from that of the humid coast belt; also as to what happens where the two faunas meet. Several seasons of work in the same general region have brought together large collections from adjacent sections and these have already been reported upon in a series of papers published from the University of California Press; so that the new material will be gathered and interpreted upon a more advantageous basis than would otherwise be possible. The present year's field work is in charge of Mr. Harry S. Swarth, Curator of Birds in the Museum, and he will be assisted by Mr. Joseph Dixon, Economic Mammalogist, as also by local hunters. This opportunity of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology to resume its field

work in southeastern Alaska is due to the special interest of Miss Annie M. Alexander, and is in accordance with the general plan adopted by her some years ago, namely to contribute to a more complete knowledge of the vertebrate fauna of the Pacific coast of North America. As heretofore, all of the field notes, photographs and specimens become at once the property of the University of California.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

**APRIL.**—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, on the evening of April 17, 1919, at eight o'clock. Dr. Evermann was in the chair and others present were: Messrs. Cox, Grinnell, Hunt, Kibbe, Lastreto, Palmer, Swarth; Mesdames Allen, Hayes, Kibbe, Meade, Schlesinger, and Wythe. Visitors present were Miss Barnard, Miss Cassidy, Mrs. Evermann, Miss Johnson, Miss Keeler, Mrs. Swarth, Mrs. Wheeler, and Miss Wythe.

The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved, and records of the meetings held by the Southern Division in February and March were read. Mr. F. N. Bassett and Mrs. Flora C. Hayes were elected to membership, and the name of B. C. Bell, 235 Eighth St., San Francisco, was proposed by Mr. A. S. Kibbe. Eleven other names were added from the minutes of the Southern Division. The programs for two symposia to be held at the June meeting of the Pacific Division of the A. A. S. were read by the secretary, also the Resolution of Sympathy drawn up by the committee to be forwarded to the relatives of Mr. Malcolm P. Anderson.

Further depredations upon the water birds of the Farallon Islands, caused by the presence of oil on the water in that region, were reported by Mr. Lastreto. The Club adopted the Committee of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, who are making an earnest effort to put a stop to the pumping of oily ballast-water from returning tankers. The committee consists of Mr. Lastreto, President of the Audubon Association, and Dr. Evermann, President of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club.

Miss Margaret W. Wythe then read a very carefully prepared paper on "Bird-Study as a Part of School Nature-study". This was discussed by several members of the Club especially interested in educa-

tional problems. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

**MAY.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on the evening of May 17, 1919, at eight o'clock. In the absence of Dr. Evermann, Mr. Lastreto presided. The members present were: Messrs. Bryant, Hall, Hunt, Lastreto, Trenor, and Wright; Mesdames Allen, Cole, Ferguson, Griffin, and Miss Elizabeth Ferguson. Visitors present were Mr. Cole, Mr. Cook and Miss Miller.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. Mr. B. C. Bell was elected to membership and eleven names which had been forwarded by the Southern Division were approved. Professor Harold Heath of Stanford University was nominated for membership by Dr. Grinnell. A letter from Professor Melville B. Anderson acknowledging the resolutions adopted by the Club with reference to the death of Mr. Malcolm Playfair Anderson was read by the Secretary.

A talk on "Some Experiences with Aviary Birds" by Mr. Curtis Wright, followed by a discussion in which several members of the Club participated, brought the meeting to a close. Adjourned.—AMELIA S. ALLEN, *Secretary*.

**JUNE.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on Thursday evening, June 19, 1919. In the absence of all the regular officers of the Division Mr. C. B. Lastreto presided and acted also as secretary pro tem. The following were present: Members: Mesdames Grinnell, Kelly, Kibbe, Roe, Schlesinger, Misses Culver, Lueddemann, Pringle, Messrs. Bade, Grinnell, Kibbe, Lastreto, Morley, Trenor; visitors: Mesdames Bade, Lueddemann, Misses Ayer, Howitt, Swarth, Wood, Messrs. Abernathy, Kimball, Schlesinger, and Sell.

The minutes of the May meeting of the Northern Division were read and approved. Reading of the minutes of the Southern Division was dispensed with. Mr. Harold Heath was elected to membership.

Dr. Joseph Grinnell presented a paper on "Sequestration Notes of Birds". General discussion by those present followed, on bird notes and songs, the psychological impulses behind them, the relation of notes to life habits and other aspects of this question. Adjourned.—C. B. LASTRETO, *Secretary, pro tem*.